

For the sake of reference, the business of the British Medical Bureau is divided under the following heads :—

1. TRANSFER OF PRACTICES, PARTNERSHIPS, ETC.
2. PROVISION OF RELIABLE ASSISTANTS AND LOCUMS TENENS.
3. ACCOUNTANCY : Investigation of Practices ; Income Tax ; Auditing Books and Accounts, etc.
4. FINANCE : Financial assistance arranged for the purchase of Practices and Partnership shares.

The head office of the Bureau is in London, with branch offices in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, and Belfast. The local secretaries for Northern Ireland are Messrs. J. Baird & Co., Imperial Buildings, 72 High Street, Belfast.

From much experience of the work of the Scholastic, Clerical, and Medical Association, and of its straightforward method of doing business, the B.M.A. commends the Bureau to its members with every confidence, and a number of practices have already been transferred in Northern Ireland.

Members of the B.M.A. have the advantage of a reduced scale of charges applicable to them. —R. H. H.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

THE Division met in The Café, Coleraine, on Friday, 24th March. The chairman, Dr. S. J. Bolton, presided over an attendance of nineteen members.

It was decided to hold the annual golf meeting at Castlerock in May.

Professor W. W. D. Thomson read a paper on "Primary Carcinoma of the Bronchus." The speaker described a number of his own cases, and drew attention to the puzzling and unexpected symptoms which sometimes arise. Many specimens from actual cases were shown. A very full account of the subject from all aspects was given. The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Professor Thomson for a most interesting and helpful paper. The usual silver collection for medical charities was taken. Dr. Evans was thanked for kindly providing tea at the opening.

The annual dinner of the Division was held at Kane's Hotel, Giants' Causeway, on Thursday, 30th March. There were sixty-five members and guests present. After the toast of "The King," the chairman, Dr. S. J. Bolton, referred briefly to the recent death of Dr. Creery, and the company stood in silent respect for a few moments. Major White, headmaster of the Coleraine Academical Institution, proposed the toast of "The British Medical Association." He referred to the great work the Association had done to raise the profession to the high position it now held before the public. Dr. McLaughlin, honorary secretary of the Londonderry Division, replied.

Dr. Boylan then proposed the health of "Our Guests," and pointed out that a social meeting of doctors might degenerate into an orgy of "talking shop." Dr. R. H. Hunter, Queen's University, in replying, paid a tribute to the members of

such a scattered division for their enthusiasm. Major J. Kirkland, London, and Alderman D. H. Christie, Mayor of Coleraine, also replied. The chairman's health was proposed by Dr. T. Adams, and Dr. S. J. Bolton replied. The toast of "The Musical Guests" was in the hands of Dr. Ross Thomson.

During the evening all present were delighted with the songs sung by Mr. A. Belford, B.L., Mr. Hugh Carson, and Dr. T. Adams, also selections on the ocarina by Mr. A. J. W. Christie from his repertoire.

Mr. D. McLaughlin and Mr. R. O'Neill gave several amusing recitations. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

The Division met in the Cottage Hospital, Coleraine, on Friday, 15th May. The following office-bearers were elected for session 1933-4:—Chairman, Dr. W. F. Evans; Vice-Chairman, Dr. R. Allison; Representative at the Annual Meeting, Dr. Huey; Representative to Branch Council, Dr. Belford; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. J. M. Hunter; Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. Sloan Bolton.

The following Kodak medical films were then shown: The Acute Appendicitis Operation; The Treatment of Fracture of Lower Leg.

The annual golf meeting was held at Castlerock on Thursday, 1st June. Dr. J. P. Thomson was the winner, and Dr. Sloan Bolton was the runner-up.

J. M. HUNTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

36 Eglinton Terrace, Portrush.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

ON 27th April, Professor Alexander Fleming, of St. Mary's Hospital, London, gave an address on "Some Problems in Connection with Septic Wounds."

The president, Professor W. W. D. Thomson, was in the chair, and over one hundred members were present.

Professor Fleming stressed the fact that antiseptics, when used in the treatment of wounds, only destroyed the natural defences against infection, and demonstrated that bacteria grew better when the wound discharges were mixed with them. Intravenous administration of antiseptics was equally ineffective, although certain mercurials and arsenicals acted specifically against streptococci of the hæmolytic variety, probably by activating the leucocytes. The paper aroused great interest and provoked considerable discussion.

The annual meeting was held at the Royal Victoria Hospital on 17th May. A large selection of cases and specimens were shewn, and members attended from all over the six counties. Professor Thomson entertained the visitors to lunch after the meeting.

Dr. Armstrong, of Ballymena, becomes president in November, and Mr. P. T. Crymble is president-elect. Dr. Mea Fraser is vice-president.

C. J. A. WOODSIDE, *Hon. Secretary.*

8 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

THE ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE ninth meeting of the Society was held in the Medical Institute, Belfast, on Thursday, 9th March. The president, Professor C. G. Lowry, was in the chair. Mr. Wheeler read a paper on "Tuberculous Laryngitis." This was an account of the work done by Mr. Wheeler at the Forster Green Hospital, and the results which he had obtained. It is published on another page in this number of the Journal. Professor Fullerton then gave an exhibition of cinematograph films, taken of himself performing the operation of prostatectomy, and that of nephrotomy, also a film showing his methods of dilating the urethra. These films were of extraordinary great interest. The details of the operative technique were presented with remarkable clarity in close-up view. The absence of hæmorrhage during the operation of prostatectomy, and the rapidity with which the prostate was secured, were noteworthy features. The value of Professor Fullerton's hæmostatic bag was clearly demonstrated, and the extreme ease of introduction commended it to the surgeons present. These films were taken on behalf of the Kodak Medical Library, to which they will form a valuable addition. They should have a wide circulation, as Professor Fullerton's reputation as a urologist extends far beyond the limits of Northern Ireland.

The tenth meeting of the session was held on Thursday, 16th March. The president, Professor Lowry, was in the chair. Dr. H. C. Crichton Miller, of London, gave an address entitled "Fears and Fancies in Clinical Medicine." Dr. Miller began with the statement that life was a process of adaptation to the surroundings in which the individual was placed, and that psychological medicine was the application of this adaptation to medicine : that it was a study of the efforts of individuals to adapt themselves to their surroundings. Formerly it was thought to be a subject confined to asylum patients, but that is not so. Patients in asylums are there because they have failed to adapt themselves to their surroundings. Psychological medicine deals with the minor aberrations of life, and is a prophylactic system of medicine rather than a healing one. Dr. Miller then discussed cases which he had treated, and used these to illustrate his methods of analysing the patient's mind, and in probing into the mental states which produced, or at least influenced, the illness of the patient. He pointed out the influence which the mental state of the patient held over the processes of organic healing. As an example he mentioned the broken femur. He said that calcium metabolism was controlled by the parathyroids, that these in turn were intimately incorporated in the thyroid, and that these influenced in their functional activities by the sympathetic nerves. He then said that if the patient was suffering from an unbalanced mind, that this would cause a disturbance of the thyroid activity, and this in turn interfere with calcium metabolism and thus interfere with the healing of the fractured femur. Professor Thomson moved a vote of thanks. Dr. Norman Graham seconded.

The eleventh meeting of the Society was held on 23rd March, 1933. Professor C. G. Lowry, the president, was in the chair. Dr. Heney read a paper of unusual

interest entitled "Pre-medication as an Aid to Anæsthesia." At the very beginning he laid great emphasis on the necessity for allaying fears which naturally beset the patient at the thought of the operation, and of not causing any unnecessary new ones. Fear was, he considered, a great antagonist to good anæsthesia, because of the manner in which it interfered with smooth induction. In support of his belief he instanced the ease with which a perfect anæsthesia was obtained in obstetrical practice and in operations in cases of acute abdomen, in both of which conditions there was mental quiescence, and the patient looked forward to the relief from pain. Pre-medication had done a great deal in minimising pre-operative anxiety, and in this way had done much towards improving anæsthesia in general. Dr. Heney considered that basal narcosis should only be pushed to give sleep or absence of apprehension, but never so far as to produce complete anæsthesia. Dr. Heney discussed the various drugs which were in use for basal anæsthesia, and dealt at some length with avertin. He considered it unsuitable for the aged, patients suffering from one or other extreme of thyroid dysfunction, and those who were greatly shocked or who had suffered severe loss of blood. For the supplementary anæsthetic, gas and oxygen was probably best, though ether was also generally suitable. In conclusion, Dr. Heney emphasized the necessity of making use of the best method of anæsthesia available.

The president then called on Mr. Ian Fraser, who read a paper on "The Diverticula of the Small Intestine." This communication showed that Mr. Fraser had made a very careful study of the condition, and had exercised considerable ingenuity in its investigation. Having given a classification of the various diverticula which might be found in the small intestine, and having dealt shortly with the others, he proceeded to describe at length the condition of multiple false diverticula, which was rare, but of which he had encountered a case. The diverticula were produced by distention of the jejunum with herniation of the mucous membrane through the muscular coat at points of entry of the arteries along the mesenteric border. Cases were very difficult to diagnose, and X-ray findings were generally negative. Sometimes, however, a very characteristic appearance was produced, and was then diagnostic. Mr. Fraser showed in the course of his lecture, by means of slides, a large number of direct photographs, X-ray pictures, and diagrams of the conditions mentioned. Among them were some beautiful radiograms taken of his case, and showing the typical appearances.

The twelfth meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 30th March, in the Medical Institute. Professor Lowry, the president, was in the chair. Professor Young read a paper on the diagnosis of cancer in the early stages. This paper was illustrated by a wealth of lantern slides prepared from Professor Young's own specimens. He indicated the types which were best treated by radical removal of the tumour, and those in which a serious outcome might be expected. Mr. Calvert read a paper on the end-results of two hundred cases of carcinoma of the breast on which the radical operation had been performed. These results show that the surgical operation holds the best outlook for early cases of the disease. We hope to publish this paper in another number of the Journal.